

In re: Fischer et al.
Serial No. 10/019,087
Filed: December 19, 2001
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Remarks

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated November 17, 2004 ("the Office Action"). Upon entry of the present Supplemental Amendment, Claims 1, 3-21, 23-35, 37-40, 42, 43 and 45-55 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's participation in the telephonic interview conducted on April 19, 2005 with Applicants' undersigned. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants have been amended Claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 13, 16-20, 23-25, 27, 32, 33, 35, 38, 40, 45, 46, 49, 50, 54 and 55 and canceled Claim 36, without prejudice, in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application in view of the comments and suggestions provided by the Examiner during the telephonic interview.

Applicants' remarks and/or arguments set forth in the response to the Office Action submitted February 17, 2005 are maintained herein. The present Supplemental Amendment is submitted responsive to the Examiner's request as a result of the April 19, 2005 telephonic interview. In the Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to recite a definition of the terms "and/or" in order to clarify this recitation. As noted above, Applicants have also amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. More specifically, support for the claim amendments is further discussed below:

Support for amendments to Claim 1 can be found, for example, at page 3, lines 15-17; page 7, line 1; page 15, lines 6-37; and page 17, lines 11-13.

Support for the amendment to Claim 24 can be found, for example, at page 24, line 35 through page 25, line 3.

Support for amendments to Claim 32 can be found, for example, at page 7, line 1; page 15, lines 6-37; and page 17, lines 11-13.

Support for amendments to Claim 35 can be found, for example, at page 24, lines 30-33 and original Claim 5.

Support for amendments to Claim 40 can be found, for example, at page 37, lines 27-34.

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Support for amendments to Claim 49 can be found, for example, at page 35, lines 11-14.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not present new matter, and respectfully request entry thereof. Applicants submit that the present application should be allowed for at least the presentation of the claim amendments as set forth herein.

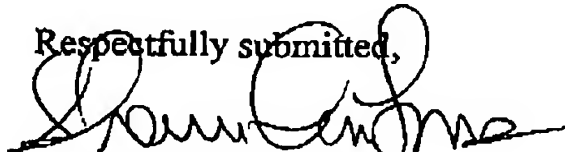
In order to address the Examiner's comments in the Office Action regarding Downey et al. (no. 26) and Toh et al. (no. 60) previously cited on Form PTO-1449 filed December 19, 2001, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to present the full citations of Downey et al. and Toh et al. This Supplemental Information Disclosure is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4), before the mailing of a first action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Therefore, no fee is believed due. Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references, and submit that the recitations of the pending claims are not taught or suggested by either Downey et al. or Toh et al.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons discussed above, the references cited in the rejections raised in the Office Action do not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all the pending claims and passing this application to issue.

The Examiner is encouraged to direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

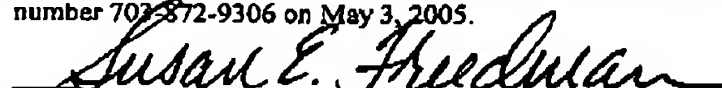
Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number 703-872-9306 on May 3, 2005.


Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: May 3, 2005